

TAFT TAKES HAND IN THE GRAB CASES

President Insists on Full-est Investigation of Bay Charges.

AN INQUIRY IS BEGUN

Four Departments Interested Called Upon to Report Any Information Found.

Washington, July 10.—Commissioner Fred S. Bennett of the general land office and Miss M. F. Abbott, a writer, both subpoenaed as witnesses, were present today when the house committee on expenditures in the interior department began an inquiry into the charges of alleged "grab" of valuable water front lands on Controller bay, Alaska by the Guggenheim interests.

Immediately following his return to Washington today President Taft set his office force to work to investigate the Controller bay affair. All four departments interested were requested to make investigations and report any information that might be found.

LETTER FROM PROMOTER.
Washington, July 10.—Miss M. F. Abbott, who claims to have discovered in the files of the interior department a letter from Richard S. Ryan, a promoter, to former Secretary Ballinger, attributing to Charles P. Taft the influence which prompted the opening of Controller bay lands in Alaska, will tell her story under oath today to the house committee on expenditures in the interior department.

Miss Abbott added to her story the statement that, before her charges were printed, the secretary of the interior went over the manuscript of her articles with her and that she showed him the letter in the files that has created such a sensation in Washington. Secretary Fisher, she says, challenged her statements, whereupon she had him send for the files and he read with her the now famous "Dick-to-Dick" letter, in which use is made of the name of Charles P. Taft.

FRESH REVELATION HINTED.
Miss Abbott also hinted at fresh revelations of a sensational nature which will come out at the investigation that began today. She was served with a subpoena from the committee last night and since has spent some time in consultation with Chairman Graham and other members of the investigating committee.

BUSH FIRES SWEEP THE OTTAWA VALLEY

Two-thirds of Town of Eganville in Ashes—Loss Thus Far Is \$500,000.

Ottawa, July 10.—Continued drought rendered the forest country of the Ottawa valley as dry as tinder and numerous bush fires are reported. The most serious thus far was at Eganville, where a conflagration swept the town, leaving two-thirds of it in ashes. The loss thus far from fire is \$500,000.

ONLY TWO MISSING IN STEAMER WRECK

Announcement Made Today by Owners of Santa Rosa, Grounded at Point Arguello.

San Francisco, Cal., July 10.—All but two passengers are accounted for out of over two hundred on the steamer Santa Rosa, which broke up at Point Arguello Friday night, according to an announcement made here by representatives of the steamship company which owned the boat.

Breakea Weist Swatting Fly.
Dubuque, Iowa, July 10.—Willard Steiner, a music teacher, while following the injunction to "swat the fly," broke his wrist. He will be incapacitated for duty at least two months.

Father Dead; Daughter Suicides.
Chicago, July 10.—While the body of her father lay in the parlor with mourners around the bier, Miss Mabelle Seymour committed suicide yesterday afternoon at the family residence, 6330 Ingleside avenue.

The Weather

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Unsettled weather with probably showers tonight or Tuesday, warmer tonight.
Temperature at 7 a. m. 73. Highest yesterday 82, lowest last night 71.
Precipitation .57.
Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 3 miles per hour.
Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 94, at 7 a. m. 92.
Stage of water 1.4, a fall of .1 in last 48 hours.
J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS.

(From noon today to noon tomorrow.)
Sun sets 7:28, rises 4:35; moon sets 4 a. m.; moon farthest south and lowest; 8:09 a. m., eastern time, full moon in constellation Sagittarius; sun's declination, 22 degrees 14.5 minutes north of celestial equator.

SEVEN BALLOONS START IN A RACE

Giant Gas Bags Entered in National Competition Off at Kansas City.

IS ELIMINATION CONTEST

For Purpose of Selecting Two Pilots to Represent United States in October Event.

Kansas City, Mo., July 10.—Seven giant balloons, piloted by widely known American aeronauts, today tug at their moorings in the aviation field along the Missouri river here and await the starting signal in the national balloon race. At 4 o'clock this afternoon, or as soon thereafter as atmospheric conditions will permit, the starter, A. B. Lambert, president of the St. Louis Aero club, will officially release the first struggling air craft. At intervals of five minutes thereafter, until the last balloon shall have cleared the ground, a contest will be set free.

This is an elimination contest for the purpose of selecting two pilots to represent the United States in the James Gordon Bennett cup race, which starts from Kansas City Oct. 5. In that race, which is an international event, three pilots—the two leaders in the national meet and Alan R. Hawley—will sail under the stars and stripes.

HAWLEY'S SPECTACULAR FLIGHT.
It was Hawley who piloted the America II. to victory in the Bennett cup race last year by making a spectacular flight of 1,171.13 miles into the Canadian wilds. On account of this performance he is eligible to fly in the international contest this year without making a preliminary trip.

The entries in the national race follow:
Kansas City Aero Club—Kansas City, H. E. Honeywell, pilot.
St. Louis Aero Club—St. Louis IV, Lieutenant Frank P. Lahm, pilot; Miss Sofia, William F. Assman, pilot, and The Million Population Club, John W. Berry, pilot.

Aero Club of New York—New York, Clifford B. Harmon, pilot.
Cleveland Aero Club—Buckeye, J. H. Wade, Jr., pilot.
Western Aero Association of Topeka—Topeka II, Frank M. Jacobs, pilot.

ARE EVENLY MATCHED.
The balloons are regarded as evenly matched, each being of 80,000 feet capacity.

Distance traveled alone will be considered in determining the leaders in the contest. Kansas City, on account of its isolated location, is believed to be an ideal starting point for a race under such conditions. With a good north or northeast wind, believe followers of aeronautics, several long flights will be made. In the past many balloons, sailing from cities nearer bodies of water, have been forced to alight long before their gas supplies were exhausted because they feared they might be carried out into a lake or an ocean. Alighting in water in this race will disqualify the contestant.

SILVER CUP FOR LEADERS.
The honor of competing in the Bennett cup race is, of course, the big plum for which the pilots in the contest today are striving, but there are other prizes to be gained. Each pilot, regardless of his showing in the meet, will be given \$100. Silver cups will be awarded the two leaders.

Finds \$750 Pearl in River.
La Crosse, Wis., July 10.—A clam fisher yesterday found a pearl valued at \$750 in a shell he had taken from the Mississippi river.

Welsh to Meet Wolgast.
Los Angeles, Cal., July 10.—It has been tacitly agreed that Lightweight Champion Ad Wolgast and Fred Welsh, the English title seeker, will fight on the coast Labor day.

Unfilled Tonnage 3,361,058.
New York, July 10.—The United States Steel corporation announced today that unfilled tonnage on its books June 30 totaled 3,361,058 tons, as against 3,113,181 May 13.

Gates Holding Own.
Paris, July 10.—The condition of John W. Gates was said today to be unchanged, except as the duration of illness has weakened the patient and rendered his case more serious.

DIVIDE A KEG POWDER; DIE

Miners Killed in Effort to Deal Fairly by Each Other.

ONE THROUGH ROOF

Last Handful Touched Off, and Is Followed by an Explosion of the Two Piles on Table.

Pittsburg, Pa., July 10.—In their efforts to divide a keg of powder in a fair and square manner, Vending Goodish was blown to atoms and John Semenich is dying of ter-

EFFORT TO SAVE LIVES OF MINERS

Washington, July 10.—In an effort to educate the miners and mine owners throughout the country in preventive methods against explosions and other disasters the bureau of mines has arranged for a national miners' life-saving demonstration, to be held at Arsenal park, Pittsburgh, Pa., on Sept. 16.

This demonstration will be the most unique exhibit of its kind ever held in this country. The bureau expects that 20,000 and 30,000 miners will attend and that coal companies will send their trained first aid and rescue corps to participate. Among the speakers will be President Taft, Secretary of the Interior Fisher and Dr. Joseph T. Holmes, director of the bureau.

STOKES LETTER MYSTERY

Apartment House Superintendent Before Police Commissioner.
New York, July 10.—The police, aided by the defendants, redoubled their efforts today to solve the mystery of the lost letters in the Stokes shoot-

WILL REPEAT BRIBE TALES

Beckmeyer, White and Holstlaw Summoned to Washington.

"JACKPOT" ALSO THEME

Present Committee Is to Go Deeper Into Lorimer Senatorial Election.

Washington, July 10.—Charles A. White, former state representative, and D. W. Holstlaw, former state senator, will be the first witnesses called to the stand when the Lorimer investigation

HOLDS CANCER IS A GERM DISEASE

Washington, July 10.—That cancer is a germ disease and not due to other causes is the claim of Dr. Frank F. Smith, chief pathologist of the bureau of plant industry of the department of agriculture.

For seven years Dr. Smith has held to his theory and now he says he has proved that plant cancers, or tumors, are due to germs, and he claims that there is not the slightest doubt but that human cancers are due to the same cause.

"Physicians," said Dr. Smith today, "claim that cancer is not a germ disease simply because they have not been able to find the germ, but I have proved conclusively that plant tumors, which are nothing more than cancers in the vegetable world, are due to a parasite, despite the fact that I have never seen or found the organism. But by thousands of experiments and years of patient work I have found that it is so, and every one who has studied the vegetable and animal world knows what a similarity there is between the plant tumor and the human cancer. Therefore, having proven the one to be due to a germ, I cannot see that there is the shadow of a doubt but that the other is also."

BILLS HAVE KEYS TO ATLANTIC CITY

Elks Arriving by the Hundreds From All Sections of the Country.

COLORS ARE IN EVIDENCE

Delegates to Be Welcomed Tonight by Governor Wilson—28,380 New Members.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 10.—Purple and white bunting envelope this resort and elks' heads and clocks with their hands pointing to the mystic hour of 11 are in almost every niche here in honor of the visiting members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, who have been coming into town by hundreds from every section of the country since Saturday.

The convention will begin tonight, when Governor Woodrow Wilson bids the delegates welcome with a speech on the steel pier.

The annual reports of Grand Exalted Ruler Garry Herrmann of Cincinnati and Grand Secretary Robinson were made public and show that 40 new lodges have been instituted.

HALF MILLION IN CHARITY.

The net increase in membership for the year was 25,389, bringing the total number of Elks up to 359,677. The order distributed nearly a half million dollars in charity last year, and the total assets of all the Elks lodges are more than \$17,000,000.

Booms for office in the grand lodge are already well under way. The Louisiana Elks are backing Colonel John P. Sullivan, former district attorney of New Orleans, for grand exalted ruler. Charles A. Rashbury of Dallas, Texas, is the favorite son of the Lone Star state. New York has a candidate in Arthur C. Moreland. The election is set for tomorrow.

day are Christian F. Wiehe and Isaac Baker of the Hines Lumber company. It is possible that former Senator Aldrich and Senator Penrose also may appear during the week to tell their version of Edward Hines' story that President Taft and the two senators urged the election of Senator Lorimer.

WOMAN MAY NOT BE HANGED IN CANADA

Probable That Sentence of Mrs. Angelina Napolitano's May Be Commuted.

Ottawa, Ont., July 10.—Three more successful petitions praying for executive clemency in the case of Mrs. Angelina Napolitano, under sentence to be hanged at Sault Ste Marie, Ont., next month for the murder of her husband, have been received by the justice department. The petitioners now number tens of thousands, representing all parts of the continent.

Because of its peculiarly distressing conditions the case has excited special interest in the United States. Petitions have been received by hundreds from Chicago and other American cities. Even from Oklahoma and other points thousands of miles away have come requests for mercy and offers to pay for legal assistance for the woman if her case comes before the cabinet for final consideration.

In only one instance has capital punishment ever been imposed on a woman in Canada. It appears to be thought here that the sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment, but the matter has not yet been considered by the cabinet council. The petitions may have some weight with the government, but the evidence will be weighed on its merits when it comes up for review some time within the next fortnight.

CROPS FALL BELOW THE 1910 FIGURE

Official Reports Given Out by Agricultural Department Today.

MORE CORN PLANTED

But Condition Is Off Five Per Cent—Oats Yield Considerably Less Than Year Ago.

Washington, July 10.—The July crop report of the United States department of agriculture crop reporting board, issued today, shows the condition on July 1, and the yield per acre, as indicated by the condition on that date, of the principal farm crops and the acreage of those not already announced, as follows:

Corn—Condition, 80.1 per cent of a normal, compared with 85.4 per cent in 1910, and 84.7 per cent the average for the past 10 years on that date; indicated yield per acre, 25.5 bushels, compared with 27.4 bushels, the 1910 final yield, and 27.1 bushels, the average for the last five years; area planted to corn this year, 115,939,000 acres, compared with 114,002,000 acres in 1910.

WHEAT 14.6 BUSHELS.
Winter Wheat—Condition, 76.8 per cent of a normal, compared with 80.4 per cent on June 1, 1911, 81.5 per cent in 1910, and 81.4 per cent the 10-year average; indicated yield per acre, 14.6 bushels, compared with 15.8 bushels in 1910, and 15.5 bushels the five-year average.

Spring Wheat—Condition, 73.8 per cent of a normal, compared with 94.6 per cent on June 1, 1911, 61.6 per cent in 1910, and 87.8 per cent the 10-year average; indicated yield per acre, 11.8 bushels, compared with 11.7 bushels in 1910 and 13.5 bushels the five-year average.

All Wheat—Condition, 75.6 per cent of a normal, compared with 86.1 per cent on June 1, 1911, 73.5 per cent in 1910, and 84.4 per cent the 10-year average; indicated yield per acre, 13.5 bushels, compared with 14.1 bushels in 1910 and 14.7 bushels the five-year average.

The amount of wheat remaining on farms on July 1 is estimated at about 38,288,000 bushels, compared with 38,739,000 bushels on July 1, 1910, and 37,701,000 bushels, the average amounts on farms July 1 for the past five years.

OATS YIELD 23.2.
Oats—Condition, 68.8 per cent of a normal, compared with 85.7 per cent on June 1, 1911, 82.2 per cent in 1910, and 86.3 per cent the 10-year average; indicated yield per acre, 23.2 bushels, compared with 31.9 bushels in 1910 and 28.4 bushels the five-year average.

Rye—Condition, 85.9 per cent of a normal, compared with 88.6 per cent on June 1, 1911, 87.6 per cent in 1910, and 90.8 per cent, the ten year average; indicated yield per acre 15.5 bushels, compared with 16.3 bushels in 1910 and 16.5 bushels the five years average.

4,495,000 ACRES POTATOES.
White potatoes—Condition 76.0 per cent of a normal, compared with 86.3 per cent in 1910 and 90.4 per cent the ten year average; indicated yield per acre 81.7 bushels, compared with 94.4 bushels in 1910 and 98.9 bushels the five year average; area planted, 3,495,000 acres, compared with 3,591,000 acres in 1910.

Hay—Condition 64.9 per cent of a normal, compared with 76.8 per cent on June 1, 1911; 80.2 in 1910, and 85.7 per cent the ten year average; indicated yield per acre 10.8 tons.

25,000 WORKMEN ON STRIKE IN PARIS

Seeking to Enforce Demand That Piece System Be Abolished and Wages Increased.

Paris, July 10.—Twenty-five thousand union building workers struck today to enforce a demand that the piece work system be abolished and their daily wages increased.

Bloodhounds on Trail.

St. Louis, Mo., July 10.—According to officials of the Illinois Traction system a plank across the track caused the wreck of the train which left St. Louis at 11:45 for Springfield, Ill. The motorman was the only person injured. Bloodhounds were taken to the scene of the wreck and followed a trail into the country.

Looks Like Murder.

Marengo, Iowa, July 10.—The body of Frank Suerway, a bachelor, who has been missing since May 1, was found buried near his barn here today. Three bullet holes were in the head and the skull was fractured. Circumstances point to murder.

A New Menace to the Farmer--Aeroplane Post



rible burns. The men were miners near Greensburg, Pa. Yesterday they were dividing a keg of powder. They knew but one way to make a fair measurement. Placing the keg on a table the men stood before it.

LAST HANDFUL SET OFF.
Goodish took out a handful and placed it on a table beside him. Semenich did the same. The tedious progress continued until one handful remained. At a loss as to how to divide it, the men finally decided to set it off. Unthinkingly Goodish touched a match to it. There was a puff and the two larger piles of powder also exploded. Goodish was blown through the roof and killed, while Semenich was fatally burned.

ing case. The superintendent of the apartment house where the shooting occurred was summoned before Police Commissioner Wells today.

At the close of the examination of tomorrow Magistrate Freschi probably will issue a summons for James Cummings, Stokes' private house detective. The formal proceedings will then begin to determine whether or not a crime had been committed.

AVIATOR IS FORCED TO GROUND BY HEAT

Trip From Atlantic City to Washington Is Discontinued Temporarily by Harry Atwood.

Baltimore, July 10.—Harry Atwood, an aviator, accompanied by Charles K. Hamilton, left Atlantic City, N. J., this morning for Washington. Upon reaching Steamer's Run, near this city, the intense heat forced the aviator to discontinue their flight temporarily at least. They hoped to resume the flight later in the day. On the trip from Atlantic City one descent was made at Farmhurst, Del., for gasoline.

SCATHING FOR SEE IN CHICAGO COURT

Leader of "Absolute Life" Charged With Hiding Behind Skirts of Women.

Chicago, July 10.—Evelyn Arthur See was accused of hiding behind the skirts of women when arguments on the evidence began today. Assistant State's Attorney Burnham pointed out that four women had been called to the witness stand, and that two of them admitted writing what the prosecution considers the most damaging portions of the "Book of Truth."

Dr. Harvey T. Wiley, Chief of Chemistry Bureau, to Take Matter Up With Congress.

Washington, July 10.—A brand new campaign against the manufacture and sale of patent medicines is being planned by Dr. Harvey T. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry.

"It is my firm belief," said the watchdog of the public health yesterday, "that many thousands of Americans are now suffering from 'incurable' diseases who might have been healthy had they used the proper medicines when the disease was in its infancy. But they relied on the advice of quacks and consumed large quantities of nostrums which, while they might not have harmed them, still did them no good at all."

"I consider that patent medicines are the curse of this country and I am going to take the matter up with congress in an effort to effect the passage of a bill which will provide that all manufactures of patent drugs must have a pharmacist's certificate and that all persons who sell or prescribe those must be possessed of doctor's degree valid in the place where they operate."

Former Representative White, whose confession that he received \$1,000 for voting for Lorimer and an additional \$500 as his share of the "jack-pot" started the Lorimer investigation more than a year ago, is now on a farm in Michigan. He is said to be anxious to come to Washington to repeat his story. When he testified before the former committee of the senate the "jack-pot" part of his story was barred under the rules of evidence adopted. The present committee, however, is especially charged with the duty of investigating the "jack-pot," and anything White can tell along this line will be welcomed.

Former Representative Beckmeyer confessed he received the same amount of money as White. Former Senator Holstlaw, however, claims to have been paid \$2,500. In connection with the testimony of White, Beckmeyer and Holstlaw, the committee will summon Representative Lee O'Neil Browne, who is accused by White of having handled the Lorimer money, Representative Robert E. Wilson, who is credited with having distributed the "jack-pot" money, and Senator John Broderick, who is named by Holstlaw as the person from whom he received his Lorimer money.

Among the witnesses who will be heard on Thursday, Friday and Satur-